

# Congressional Global Health Caucus



## Congressional Global Health Caucus Update on the 2009-H1N1 Flu Outbreak

Dear Colleague:

As co-chairs of the Global Health Caucus we want to share a Congressional Update on the H1N1 Flu outbreak from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Our caucus will distribute these daily updates on the status of the outbreak in the United States and internationally, including background information, travel updates, and where to find additional information. The CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu> will be updated regularly for all those who have questions about the swine flu or what precautions they should take.

In addition, if a congressional staffer wishes to be added to the distribution list to receive CDC's 2009-H1N1 Flu Congressional Updates directly, or to receive the call-in information for the CDC's daily telebriefings, please call the CDC Washington Office (202) 245-0600.

As Congress prepares to deal with the public health emergency caused by the H1N1Influenza, the Congressional Global Health Caucus will hold a **briefing on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3 in room Cannon 210** to address the spread of the virus in the U.S. and abroad. In light of the rapidly changing information about the infection and the challenge of keeping Congress informed and prepared to respond, caucus leaders will lead an important information effort to help Members stay up to date about the global spread of the disease. The Caucus will be providing daily updates as they become available and more information can be found by [clicking here](#).

Sincerely,

/s/  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Dave Reichert  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Donna Christensen  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Vic Snyder  
Member of Congress

## 2009-H1N1 Flu - Congressional Update

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

April 30, 2009

We are providing this document to help inform Congress and congressional staff about the current status of the 2009-H1N1 flu events. Any questions should be directed to CDC/Washington at 202-245-0600.

Note: Green text indicates new information. Black text indicates background and other information also included in previous updates.

## U.S. Update

As of April 30, 2009 10:30 AM ET, a total of 109 confirmed human cases of 2009-H1N1 flu have been identified in the United States. Additional suspected cases are currently being analyzed. There has been one death from 2009-H1N1 flu in Texas. A summary of the cases is provided below. All questions related to specific cases should be directed to the state health department in the state in which the case occurred. A full list of state health departments and their contact information is available at [http://www.astho.org/index.php?template-regional\\_links.php](http://www.astho.org/index.php?template-regional_links.php) under State Links.

<b>U.S. Human Cases of 2009-H1N1 Flu Infection</b> (As of April 30, 2009 10:30 AM ET)		
<b>State</b>	<b># of laboratory confirmed cases</b>	<b># deaths reported among laboratory confirmed cases</b>
Arizona	1 case	-
California	14 cases	-
Indiana	1 case	-
Kansas	2 cases	-
Massachusetts	2 cases	-
Michigan	1 cases	-
Nevada	1 case	-
New York City	50 cases	-
Ohio	1 case	-
South Carolina	10 cases	-
Texas	26 cases	1 death
<b>Total Count</b>	<b>109 cases</b>	<b>1 death</b>
Source: CDC ( <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/">http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/</a> )		

The average age of cases in the U.S. is 16 years and range from 22 months to 81 years. Six cases have been hospitalized.

## International Update

The World Health Organization (WHO) is providing information on international 2009-H1N1 flu outbreaks at: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>.

On April 29, 2009 WHO raised the level of influenza pandemic alert from phase 4 to phase 5. Information on WHO's pandemic influenza phases is available at: [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/phase/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/phase/en/index.html). As CDC was operating under the assumption that the outbreak would expand, the change in WHO's alert phase does not change our activities. As further information becomes available, WHO may decide to either revert to phase 4 or raise the level of alert to another phase. CDC will continue to adjust our response to changing events, and will make information available as we confirm it.

As of April 30, 2009 5:00 PM GMT, the Government of Mexico has reported 97 laboratory confirmed cases, including 7 deaths, of 2009-H1N1 flu. Investigation is continuing to clarify the spread and severity of the disease in Mexico.

As of April 30, 2009 5:00 PM GMT, the World Health Organization reported laboratory confirmed cases of 2009-H1N1 flu with no deaths in the following countries: Austria (1), Canada (19), Germany (3), Israel (2), Netherlands (1), New Zealand (3), Spain (13), Switzerland (1), and the United Kingdom (8).

## **International Human Cases of 2009-H1N1 Flu Infection**

(As of April 30, 2009 5:00 PM GMT)		
Country	# of laboratory confirmed cases reported by country with cases	# of deaths reported among laboratory confirmed cases
Austria	1 case	-
Canada	19 cases	-
Germany	3 cases	-
Israel	2 cases	-
Mexico	97 cases	7 deaths
Netherlands	1 case	-
New Zealand	3 cases	-
Spain	13 case	-
Switzerland	1 case	-
United Kingdom	8 cases	-
<b>Total Count</b>	<b>148 cases</b>	<b>7 deaths</b>
Source: World Health Organization ( <a href="http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_04_30_a/en/index.html">http://www.who.int/csr/don/2009_04_30_a/en/index.html</a> )		

The U.S. has deployed teams to Mexico to assist in the investigation as part of a WHO team and as part of a tri-lateral team with Canada and Mexico. The U.S. is assisting with the epidemiologic investigation in Mexico to better understand which illnesses are from 2009-H1N1 flu versus other pathogens, how infection is spreading, how easily it is transmitted, and what factors increase or decrease the risk of infection. The U.S. teams are also helping to strengthen the laboratory capacity in Mexico to increase the ability to detect this new virus on-site. **A laboratory with the ability to conduct 2009-H1N1 flu confirmation is now operational in Mexico.** The U.S. teams are also on standby to assist with communication, infection control guidance, and other similar possible needs in Mexico. In addition to the work as a part of these two teams, the U.S. is engaged in routine infectious disease surveillance along the border between the U.S. and Mexico.

## **Background Information About 2009-H1N1 Flu**

### **Background information on 2009-H1N1 flu:**

[http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu\\_you.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.htm)

[http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/key\\_facts.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/key_facts.htm)

### **Most recent updates to information from CDC on 2009-H1N1 flu:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/whatsnew.htm>

### **Guidance for professionals on 2009-H1N1 flu:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance/>

Interim guidance—HIV infected adults and adolescents:

[http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance\\_HIV.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance_HIV.htm)

Interim guidance—Children and pregnant women:

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/HAN/042809.htm>

### **Guidance for screening in states with few/no confirmed cases of 2009-H1N1 flu:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/screening.htm>

### **Information for individuals on 2009-H1N1 flu:**

[http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu\\_you.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.htm)

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/parents.htm>

## **Travel notices related to 2009-H1N1 flu:**

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/>

## **Information on 2009-H1N1 flu and pork**

[http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/key\\_facts.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/key_facts.htm)

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/pdf/brochure.pdf>

On April 30, 2009 the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Animal Health Organization (OIE) issued a joint statement regarding 2009-H1N1 flu virus and the safety of pork and pork products. The statement reaffirms that Influenza viruses are not known to be transmissible to people through eating processed pork or other food products derived from pigs. The full statement is available at:

[http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2009/h1n1\\_20090430/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2009/h1n1_20090430/en/index.html)

## ***2009-H1N1 Flu Vaccine***

### **Does the seasonal flu vaccine protect against 2009-H1N1 flu?**

No. The 2009-H1N1 flu viruses are very different from human H1N1 viruses and, therefore, vaccines for human seasonal flu would not provide protection from 2009-H1N1 flu viruses.

### **How long will it take to develop a vaccine?**

Currently, FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are developing virus reference strains, which provide information about a virus that is necessary to develop a vaccine. These strains should be distributed to approved vaccine manufacturers in a matter of months and production of the vaccine could begin as early as this summer.

As the vaccine is manufactured, the National Institutes of Health will also conduct clinical trials to determine the best vaccine dosage and formulation. The Food and Drug Administration will monitor the manufacturing of this vaccine and conduct strict oversight to ensure the vaccine is effective and safe for use. HHS anticipates that this vaccine will be ready for the public later this year, perhaps as early as the Fall.

### **Who determines whether to manufacture 2009-H1N1 vaccine?**

Ultimately, this decision will be made by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary with input from the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), the Enterprise Governance Board, and the Countermeasure Steering Committee, who will advise on scientific, public health, contractual and budgetary considerations.

Finally, lessons learned from past experience remind that the development of a vaccine is a separate decision from the decision to begin a mass immunization program. This reinforces the need to build and require formal periodic assessments and reevaluation.

## ***Strategic National Stockpile***

### **Where can I learn about the Strategic National Stockpile?**

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/stockpile/>

### **How is the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) being used?**

CDC has released 25 percent of states and localities allocation of SNS held antiviral drugs, personal protective equipment, and respiratory protection devices. This includes 11 million courses of treatment with antiviral drugs. All states and localities (localities

include D.C., 8 U.S territories, New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago) have requested supplies from the stockpile and CDC is working with states on the distribution of supplies. Distribution of antiviral drugs and supplies is prioritized to states with confirmed cases of 2009-H1N1 flu. Distribution has been completed in New York City, Indiana, New York, Texas, Kansas, Ohio, Illinois, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia. Eighteen additional states and localities have received partial shipments. Shipments are in transit to 33 states and localities. It is anticipated that all states will have received their full share of the 25 percent of the antiviral drug courses by May 3, 2009. This step will enable states to have medications and supplies on hand locally should they be needed. In addition, individual state stockpiles are available for use at the discretion of the states. No shortages of antiviral drugs have been reported.

### ***Community Mitigation***

#### **What guidance does CDC have for states and communities with active 2009-H1N1 flu infections?**

CDC has developed interim planning guidance for state, territorial, tribal, and local communities that focuses on several nonpharmaceutical measures that might be useful during this outbreak of 2009-H1N1 flu virus. The guidance will be updated as necessary as the situation evolves. The guidance is available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/mitigation.htm>.

The guidance provides information on home isolation of infected persons, recommendations for household contacts of infected persons, guidance regarding school dismissal and childcare facility closure, and information on social distancing interventions. Additional guidance for childcare providers is available at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/childcare.htm>.

### **Identification and Confirmation of Infections**

#### **What is CDC's role in evaluating possible 2009-H1N1 flu infections?**

CDC is collaborating with clinicians and state and local health departments to identify and confirm 2009-H1N1 flu virus infections. CDC has also provided guidance for clinicians with patients presenting with possible 2009-H1N1 flu infection. Clinicians are asked to obtain a respiratory swab for 2009-H1N1 flu testing. Once collected, the clinician should contact their state or local health department to facilitate transport and timely diagnosis at a state public health laboratory. Currently, state public health laboratories generally conduct initial laboratory tests and are being asked to send all unsubtypable influenza A specimens to CDC for further diagnostic testing.

CDC is working to distribute diagnostic test kits to states to enable state laboratories to confirm cases directly. Testing kits should be distributed to all states by May 1, 2009. Major investments in state laboratory capacity over the last five years have enhanced capabilities such that the confirmation testing can be conducted at the state level with distribution of testing kits.

#### **How can human infections with 2009-H1N1 influenza be diagnosed?**

To diagnose 2009-H1N1 flu infection, a respiratory specimen would generally need to be collected within the first 4 to 5 days of illness (when an infected person is most likely to be shedding virus). However, some people, especially children, may shed virus for 10 days or longer. Identification of 2009-H1N1 flu virus requires sending the specimen to CDC for laboratory testing at this time.

## **Travel and Border Control**

### **What travel warnings has CDC issued?**

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, CDC recommended that travelers avoid all non-essential travel to Mexico. CDC is providing recommendations to reduce risk of infection and help travelers stay healthy. Information is available at:

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/contentSwineFluMexico.aspx>.

### **What is being done to protect travelers and flight crews from 2009-H1N1 flu infections?**

CDC has issued guidance to assist airline flight deck and cabin crew members in identifying passengers that may have 2009-H1N1 flu. The guidance is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/aircrew.htm>. CDC also issued guidance for airlines regarding flight crews returning from areas with 2009-H1N1 infections, available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance/air-crew-dom-intl.htm>.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is monitoring incoming travelers to identify individuals experiencing symptoms entering the U.S. and is providing information about the 2009 H1N1 flu virus to travelers.

Information is being provided to passengers arriving from areas with 2009-H1N1 infections regarding symptoms and steps to take if they develop symptoms. This information is available at: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/fileSwineFluPassengers.ashx>.

## **HHS and CDC Roles**

CDC is actively responding to and investigating the current outbreak of 2009-H1N1 flu. CDC has fully activated its Emergency Operations Center. In addition to response and laboratory activities described above, staff have been deployed to California, Texas, New York City, and Mexico to assist with the public health investigation. In addition, CDC is working to deploy 25 personnel to 13 Quarantine stations. On April 21<sup>st</sup> CDC described the first two cases in a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Infection in Two Children --- Southern California, March--April 2009 (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm58d0421a1.htm>). An MMWR describing additional cases was published on April 24<sup>th</sup> and is available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm58d0424a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm58d0424a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm58d0424a1.htm?s_cid=mm58d0424a1_e).

As a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), CDC is coordinating and communicating closely with HHS officials. On April 26<sup>th</sup>, as a consequence of confirmed cases of 2009-H1N1 flu in California, Texas, Kansas, and New York and after consultation with public health officials, including CDC, the Acting Secretary of HHS, Charles Johnson, declared a national public health emergency involving 2009-H1N1 flu.

HHS, in turn, is closely coordinating with other state, local and Federal Agencies, including Department of Homeland Security, Department of Agriculture, and Department of State; and our international counterparts.

For more information regarding CDC's 2009-H1N1 flu activities, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

## **Pandemic Planning Investments at Work**

In recent years, CDC has received congressional appropriations pandemic influenza activities.

<b>CDC's Pandemic Influenza Appropriations</b>	
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
2007	\$70,000,000
2008	\$154,632,000
2009	\$156,046,000
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$380,678,000</b>

These recent investments have enhanced many areas critical to pandemic influenza preparedness and response, including health monitoring, epidemiology, laboratory capabilities, response, and recovery. The appropriated resources have allowed CDC to work with states and territories to test national infrastructure and develop operational plans, strengthen crisis communication plans and tools, expand the Strategic National Stockpile, improve surveillance systems, and work with international partners to prepare for a pandemic. All of these activities have increased both CDC's and our partners' capacity and capabilities for dealing with the current 2009-H1N1 flu outbreak.

For more information about CDC's pandemic influenza activities and appropriations, please contact CDC/Washington, at (202) 245-0600.

## **Where to Find Updates**

CDC is committed to ensuring Congress, public health partners, the media, and the public are able to obtain up-to-date and accurate information regarding the human 2009-H1N1 flu cases and CDC's related activities. CDC is providing daily updates on our Web site. Information is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/investigation.htm>.

In addition, the World Health Organization (WHO) has additional information on the global situation at: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>. Many state health departments are adding or updating information on 2009-H1N1 flu on their Web sites. A full list of state health departments and their contact information is available at [http://www.astho.org/index.php?template-regional\\_links.php](http://www.astho.org/index.php?template-regional_links.php) under State Links.